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SUMMARY

Much of the emphasis in regional broadcasts is on the conferences of peace partisans now being held in a number of Republics. The output on Tank Day is small in volume and familiar in content. There is practically no mention of International Cooperatives Day which this year coincides with Tank Day, 9 September. Considerable regional editorial attention is still focused on agricultural shortcomings while, on the other hand, an unusual flow of letters to Stalin stresses collective farm successes in a number of areas. There is continued radio discussion of ideological aberrations, particularly in the Ukraine.

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TANK DAY

The principal article on the occasion is written by Marshal of the Armored Forces Bogdanov (9 Sept.) who, like PRAVDA of the same date, assigns the Soviet tank forces a major role in defeating the enemy in the last war. Unlike PRAVDA, Bogdanov traces the origin of the tank and asserts that the first "chain tread" vehicle, the prototype of the modern tank, was designed, built and developed in Russia. It is relevant to point out, he declares, that the first tank in the world was built and successfully passed the test in Russia in May 1915. In England--where an attempt is still being made to dispute the question of the priority of tank building--the first model was tested in late 1915 and early 1916.

Reviewing Soviet tank operations in the last war, Bogdanov says that Soviet tankmen advanced with great skill in the deserts, mountains and taigas of Manchuria--where they routed the best Japanese troops--and on the road from Stalingrad to Berlin. The leading principle of tank action, credited to Stalin, is the camouflaged use of tanks and their concentration in the direction of the main blow. Another testimony of the performance of Soviet men and armor in the late war according to the article, is the fact that 250,000 tankmen were awarded orders and medals and 1,142 were invested with the title of "hero of the Soviet Union." The only allusion to present Soviet tank strength is contained in the observation that "on (this) tank troops day the Soviet people are also marking the outstanding merits of tank builders" and that "the high tempos of work in our tank industry have been secured."

PRAVDA observes that the occasion is being celebrated against the background of "historic victories" of the Soviet people in peaceful and creative labor, on the one hand, and "new successes in military and political training" on the other. The editorial recalls the outstanding tank battles of World War II and lavishes familiar praise on Stalin's military genius and the quality of Soviet armor: everyone admits that the Soviet Army was equipped with the "world's best" fighting vehicles.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, the only Republican paper devoting an editorial to Tank Day, gives a conventional recital of Soviet tank performance during the last war with some passages almost a verbatim repeat of the PRAVDA version mentioned above. There is implicit reference to Soviet military strength which is familiarly linked with the cause of peace:

The Soviet Army stands as a threat to any powers laying claim to world domination... The Soviet people know that the stronger the USSR, the more considerable its role in international affairs and the more hopeful the cause of peace. (9 September)

Col. Tretyakov recalls the disadvantageous position of the Soviet Army at the outbreak of the last war, and the heavy defensive battles it had to fight in the initial phase. He also recalls the unwillingness of the West to see Germany defeated as that would have prevented "the weakening of our country through war." The Soviet victory is said to have been achieved despite Anglo-American's treacherous policy which encouraged the German High Command to concentrate the "main bulk of their forces" against the Soviet troops.

Mention of Tank Day is also made in a few scattered dispatches from the Ukraine and Georgia where, as in other regional sources, peace partisan activities dominate the news.

SHORTCOMINGS

Agriculture: Agricultural shortcomings are primarily related to idle machinery and slow tempos but also cover a variety of statute infractions ranging from illegal allocation of communal lands for personal use (Kamenets-Podolsk Oblast) to cattle pilferage (Kirghiz SSR). The increasing number of letters to Stalin, on the other hand, point to some measure of success achieved in scattered oblasts.

Stock breeding, according to PRAVDA (7 September), is still the Achilles' heel of Soviet agriculture, and the blame has now been shifted to the higher echelons of Party leadership. Thus the Central Committee of the Kirghiz Party and the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers are taken to task for not uncovering in time and putting

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a stop to "the practice of pilfering publicly-owned cattle." A blanket charge is also leveled at all the Party organizations of the Republic for their failure to train qualified stock breeders and particularly for not permitting "much movement from post to post." Official censure is also extended to the USSR Ministry of Agriculture--which must assume "no small part of the blame"--for the chaotic fodder situation revealed in a number of areas. Unsatisfactory fodder preparations are said to have been carried out in the Kazakh SSR, while in the Tambov, Astrakhan, and Novorossisk oblasts "this work has recently ceased altogether." Inadequate leadership in the stock breeding industry is also imputed to the "Party and Soviet organs" of the Kazakh SSR, Rostov, Kostroma, Kalinin and a number of other oblasts.

Editorial comment on agricultural shortcomings in the past has often inveighed against the regional authorities' use of above-plan production indices of certain collective farms to make up for the failure of the slow farms and thus present a satisfactory overall plan-fulfillment picture. That such methods are still employed may be inferred from the same PRAVDA editorial which, referring to the maintenance and distribution of publicly-owned cattle, insists on "the retention of the existing number of cattle and fowl" in the collective farms which are over-fulfilling the stock breeding plan.

A PRAVDA article by Melnikov, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party (2 September), exhorts certain oblast and district Party committees "to improve their selection, nomination and training" of collective farm chairman. Melnikov pays tribute to the Great Russian people who are "chiefly responsible" for the successes achieved by Soviet Ukraine in the improvement of its socialist agriculture as well as in every other branch of the national economy,* and he calls on Ukrainian Bolsheviks to improve their own leadership in agriculture. The latter are held responsible for the poor crops in certain parts of the country, particularly in western Ukraine where the collective farms are still comparatively new. Noting "with satisfaction" that the new collective farms of western Ukraine are "standing firmly on their feet," Melnikov nevertheless upbraids the Ukrainian Party organizations for their failure to liquidate the "discrepancy" in the agricultural yields noticeable in a number of districts and collective farms. (The Russian word used unusual in this sense, is "pestrota" which literally means diversity of color, and in this case obviously refers to the outlook of the various field patches.)

Apart from the familiar methods suggested for improving Communist leadership, Melnikov stresses the necessity of increasing the number of amalgamated collective farms (ukrupnennye kolkhози) which are "organizationally stronger" and capable of coping with their tasks better than small farms.

Plowing in the Ukraine "as a whole" is very slow, according to RADYANSKA PRAVDA (7 September), and the August plan is short of its mark by more than 50%. The leaders of the Rovno, Zhitomir, Chernigov, Sumy and Poltava oblasts are said to ignore "plowing of any kind." Half of the rayons of the Drogobych Oblast, for example, have not even begun to work. Many tractors are idle, and most of the tractor drivers fail to fulfill their daily norms. This situation, complains the paper, is further aggravated by the fact that in the Chernigov, Sumy, Zhitomir and Kiev oblasts improper plowing--that is shallow instead of deep plowing--is carried out.

The same paper (11 September) discusses the stock breeding industry in the Ukraine and finds it extremely unsatisfactory due to poor Bolshevik leadership, squandering of "thousands of head of cattle," inadequate fodder preparations and the failure to build a sufficient number of kolhoz buildings for the cattle. Lack of Bolshevik persistence (bolshevistskaya nastoychivost) is, according to the editorial, responsible for the fact that the Zaporozhye, Voroshilovgrad, Ternopol and Stanislav oblast collective farms failed to fulfill the plan for the number of livestock "of any kind." Singling out the Zaporozhye Oblast as a typical case of mismanagement,

* Russian version: Uspekhi dostignutye sovetsoy Ukrainoy v pod'eme sotsialisticheskogo selskogo khozaistva, kak i vo vseh otraslyakh narodnogo khozaistva, yavlyautsia rezul'tatom...prezhde vsego pomoshchi velikogo russkogo naroda.

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the paper says that in seven months of this year the oblast kolkhozes "squandered 10,000 head of horned cattle (regaty skot), many pigs and sheep." The oblast is also lagging behind in the preparation of fodder and in the construction of livestock premises. There is no indication, however, that Zaporozhye is an extreme case of failure since, as inferred by the paper, the official scrutiny of that province was prompted by the glaring contrast between its prewar and present status: "Before the war the Zaporozhye Oblast was an advanced oblast in the Republic (with a) high level of zoo-technical culture... orderly planning of labor and sufficiency of fodder..." Deputy Chairman of the Oblast Executive Committee Tytov is only partly blamed for the situation in the livestock industry since his responsibility extends only to the low milk yield, in which respect he exhibited "great carelessness."

"Lack of economic sense" on the part of the oblast and rayon Party organizations is said to be responsible for the fact that 1,000 hectares of fodder grass still remaining unmown in the Poltava and Sumy oblasts. RADYANSKA UKRAINA, says the situation in the Nikolayev Oblast is not much better: "only 138 kolkhoz buildings have been built out of the 1,500 planned." In the Chernigov Oblast building "has not even started."

RADYANSKA PODILYA (in Ukrainian, 11 September) cites an instance of kolkhoz corruption which has gone so far that even the chairman of the kolkhoz Auditing Committee (revizionny komitet) "acquired the habit of violating the kolkhoz statute." Saying that lack of Party vigilance "as a rule" leads to violations of the kolkhoz statute (kolkhozny ustav), the paper names the "Persheho Travnaya" (may first) Collective Farm, Berezdovsky Rayon, as a case in point:

The managerial staff treat the communal property as if it were their private property. They have appropriated kolkhoz building lumber, squandering it outside the kolkhoz, and disposed of collective farm raw materials at their own discretion. This has gone so far that the auditing committee chairman himself has adopted a course of kolkhoz statute violation.

Ukrainian version:

Lyudi pravlenia...v arteli pochali rozporozhatysya gromadskim dobrom yak svoim. Voni privlasnyuvali kolkhozny liso-material, rozbazarivali yoho z artelnogo stanu, rozdavali komu khotily i yak khotily artilny sirevets. Dyishlo navit do togo sheho na shlyakh porushenia statutu stav samgolova revizionnoy komysii kolkhoztstu.

The paper notes widespread violations of the kolkhoz statute in a number of unnamed collective farms where communal property was "sold and mismanaged." In one case the management took illegal possession of common land for personal use. Also, cited in this connection, is the "harmful practice" of making advance payments to kolkhoz workers "without any regard" to the amount they have actually earned. This latter type of violation as RADYANSKA PODILYA puts it, has in fact "become a habit."

VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (7 September) discusses stockbreeding and fodder issue in the oblast and blames the "intolerable situation" on the superficial attention on the part of Communist leaders and the "inflexibility" of kolkhoz and machine-tractor station management. Fodder production in the Novo-Aydarsky Rayon, for example, has been unsatisfactory "for several years," and infringement of the livestock breeding regulations are noted in the Melovsky, Voroshilovsk and other rayons. Conditions "impossible to tolerate" are also said to exist in the Krasnodonsky, Frunzensky and other rayons, where the first harvesting of grass has not yet been completed.

The paper also complains that in a "number" of kolkhozes negligent and faulty storing made the fodder unusable, so that livestock "suffered" despite the over-fulfilled fodder plan. This "vicious practice," will not be tolerated. An acute shortage of livestock shelter facilities is revealed in the Lozno-Alexandrovsky and Evsugsky rayons where the annual plan for the construction of livestock housing has been completed by only 12%. In many other rayons the repairs of existing premises are said to be proceeding "very slowly."

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Looking at the oblast agricultural situation from the political angle, VOROSHILOVGRAD-SKAYA PRAVDA (5 September) asserts that the failure to utilize the available technical facilities to the full, particularly in the Mostkovsky and Novo-Svetlovsky rayons, is largely due to the "serious decline in the spirit" of political agitation. The rayon Party organizations are suspected of having lost control over the "ideological character" of the agitators' work, and existing shortcomings are therefore not revealed "at an early stage." There is no amplification of the "ideological character," but as indicated in ZARYA VOSTOKA (15 September), in a different context, the foremost duty of the production leaders and agitators is "to intensify their Party-Government approach to their work." The latter approach, often expressed in the familiar dictum "the interests of the State above all," presupposes among other things a settlement of the farm's indebtedness to the State regardless of whether the agricultural plan has been fulfilled.

VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA also assails the "formalistic attitude" assumed toward agitation work among the farmers by the rayon Party committee of the Popasnyansky, Pokrovsky, Frunzensky and a number of other rayons where many of the agitators, after receiving their assignments, "do not even appear in the fields."

High livestock mortality and unnecessary losses of the yearling stock in Vinnitsa Oblast are the topic of a VINNITSKA PRAVDA editorial (6 September). The unauthorized marketing of cattle in some rayons and the high livestock mortality in others have, according to the paper, had a disastrous effect on the oblast plan. Barsky Rayon, which is cited as an example of "laxity," fulfilled its three-year cattle development plan by "barely 89%." A partial breakdown of that figure, however, puts the fulfillment figure for cows at 83.5%, hogs 72.2% and fowls 33.2%. "Even worse results" are said to have been attained in the collective farms of the Ulyanovsky, Kazatinsky, Kalinovsky and several other rayons:

In the above-mentioned Barsky Rayon alone, 221 head of cattle and 1,221 hogs were marketed. Moreover, the mortality of livestock in this rayon is very high. If the whole stock had been kept the rayon would have fulfilled the 3-year livestock development plan long ago.

A summarized dispatch from Kiev (in Ukrainian, 7 September) reports that the Central Committee of the Ukraine Communist Party is critical of the cattle plan performance in the Republic. At a recent meeting to study the question, the Central Committee disclosed that "a number of rayons and oblasts" failed to increase their cattle herds and to raise their productivity. Listed in that category are the Zaporozhye, Voroshilovgrad, Chernigov, Zhitomir, Ternopol, Stanislav and "several" other oblasts. Officials of these oblasts are also censured for their failure to make adequate preparations for storing fodder, building cattle premises, and selecting experienced cadres for stock breeding.

Better utilization of equipment and better performance in sowing winter crops respectively are discussed by BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA (7 September) and CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA (11 September). The failure to use all the tractors to full capacity in Odessa Oblast is said to be caused by faulty repairs and distribution of spare parts which in turn is attributed to "great inefficiency" on the part of machine-tractor station officials. Thus the head of the Yeremenskaya Machine-Tractor Station, for example, declared that more than half of his tractors were idle due to the shortage of spare parts. An official inspection revealed, however, that his station had received more spare parts than any other but they were not properly cared for, the parts were lying about in "odd boxes and corners," and some brigades had more spare parts than they needed while others had none at all.

CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA declares that the "incomplete" utilization of farm machinery is responsible for the slow rate of sowing in Andreyevo-Ivanovsky, Troitsky, Dolinsky and some other rayons. Among other reasons are slow fuel deliveries and inferior seeds. In one case--Belyaevsky Machine-Tractor Station--a tractor and a sowing machine were idle in the field for three days waiting for fuel. When it finally arrived, it was discovered that the seed was inferior and had to be exchanged.

The continuing lag in agricultural work, socialist competition and stock breeding is denounced by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in four editorials between 2 and 15 September. Eight oblasts--Aktyubinsk, Karaganda, Pavlodar, Kzyl Orda, North Kazakhstan, Semipalatinsk, Taldy-Kurgan and East Kazakhstan--are listed as falling short of the mowing and silage plan (2 September). The blame, says the paper, must be shared

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by the Party, Soviet and agricultural officials of those oblasts. Two other oblasts--Karaganda and Kokchetav--are said to be far behind in their plowing and to be failing to use their "abundant" equipment to full capacity (4 September).

Formalism is held accountable for most of the production ills in both industry and agriculture (6 September), and trade union officials are cautioned against their continued display of negligence in that matter: "Formalism is rampant and is hindering the work of the trade unions. There is too much red tape." A typical example of such negligence is cited in the case of Irgiz Rayon (Akmoinsk Oblast) collective farmers who "had not even heard" of the competition between the Kazakh and Kirghiz stock breeders which has been going on for some months (15 September).

Isolated reports of agricultural shortcomings are broadcast also from the following areas:

Drogobych: "There are considerable shortcomings in the work of the political section of the oblast agricultural administration." (RADYANSKE SLOVO, 6 September)

Orel: "Facts show that during the last 5 days many kolkhozes have lowered the tempo of their grain deliveries and have failed to fulfill their quotas." (ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 7 September)

Rostov: "In many rayons the authorities and heads of machine-tractor stations and kolkhozes do not attach... importance to the schedule of work...and do not consider it essential to carry it out." (MOLOT, 10 September)

IDEOLOGY

Criticism of ideological aberrations, heretofore centered on the Ukraine, appears to have shifted to the Kazakh SSR where "nationalistic trends" have recently been revealed, according to KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (1 September). The August conference of Kazakh school teachers "made it clear" that the ideological and theoretical level of instructors and teachers is still "not high enough." The paper declares that the Kazakh Ministry of Education is primarily responsible for the inadequate ideological qualifications of the educators which resulted in "serious errors... in textbooks of Kazakh literature." There is no explanation of the nature of the mentioned errors nor of the connection between the teachers political qualifications and the wrong textbooks, the publication of which is normally strictly supervised by the Party:

...serious errors were permitted in textbooks of Kazakh literature, stressing and placing false values on nationalistic trends and movements in opposition to Marxist principles.

The Ministry of Education is accordingly exhorted to put an end to the "existing nationalist tendencies" and reorganize school instruction, particularly in languages, biology and history "on the basis of Party and Government instructions." That Kazakh history is in the process of being rewritten or is otherwise affected by the editorial strictures, may be seen in an Alma Ata dispatch (in Russian, 11 September) saying that Doctor of Historical Sciences Pokrovsky made a special report to the Kazakh Academy of Sciences "concerning preparations" for the publication of the third issue of the first volume of the history of the Kazakh SSR.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (7 September) also has a few harsh words for the Kazakh Academy of Sciences itself which, it says, is not quite up to the required ideological standard, and it implies that it lacks "a firm grounding in Marxist-Leninist theory." The Academy's Party committee appears to be too weak and "is not taking the necessary measures to...raise its role in the work of the Academy." The absence of "truly creative discussion" among the scientists as well as of criticism and self-criticism is similarly blamed on the Party organization.

Ukrainian SSR: RADYANSKA UKRAINA (5 September) demands a "radical improvement" in the ideological work of the rural Party organizations, exhorting them to a continued "persistent struggle against the remnants of capitalism." These Communists are reminded that the PRAVDA editorial on ideological perversions (7 July) which precipitated the nationwide campaign against a variety of nationalist tendencies "is fully applicable to Communists." The paper also speaks of the "insufferable, care-

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free attitude" manifested by many rural Communists, particularly in Tsumansky Rayon (Volhyn Oblast), where the "weakening of the link" with the masses has adversely affected the harvesting campaign.

The Ukrainian Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge comes in for sharp criticism by the magazine NAUKA I ZHYTTIA (Science and Life, 8 September) which complains that the Society is derelict in its duties and is apparently not conscious of PRAVDA's strictures about all sorts of ideological deviations. The Ukrainian people, the journal maintains, must be shown "in every way" how the Soviet Ukraine has grown...in the implacable struggle against...bourgeois nationalists and cosmopolitans, and that they achieved considerable successes "only thanks to the great assistance of the brotherly Russian people." (tolko blagodarya pomoshchi bratskogo russkogo naroda)

THE UKRAINE ACCUSES

Under that title RADYANSKA UKRAINA published material and photographs describing American "crimes" against the Ukrainian population in 1918-1920. In Odessa, Nikolayev and Kherson, says the paper, thousands of completely innocent people were shot, burned to death or hanged by the Americans. Photographs are reproduced showing the bodies of the killed workers. (Kiev, in Ukrainian, 6 September) (Western accounts of the 1918-1920 intervention do not mention American troops as operating in southern Ukrainian ports which were held by British, French and Italian troops.)

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